

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicants note the Examiner's comments that the claims do not patentably distinguish over the art, as previously represented, and in addition, the Examiner now cites Donnelly, U.S. Patent No. 6,460,181 B1 in combination with previously cited Darbee, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,130,726 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as detailed in the Office Action.

However, applicants respectfully submit that notwithstanding the Examiner's analysis, and in contrast therewith, the claims contain features which patent protection should be granted. In particular, applicants note that the claims, as amended and presented herein, clearly emphasize the operative relationship of the remote program display and selection apparatus 10, which is only operatively communicated with the digital broadcast receiver 50 through the intermediary of an infrared transmitter and receiver unit 14 on the apparatus 10 and a similar unit 58 on the receiver 50 in order to be able to, respectively, transmit and receive, in particular, electronic program guide (EPG) data, so as to avoid such data having to be displayed in a disruptive manner on a television screen 72 of a TV monitor 70, which is connected with the digital broadcast receiver 50.

The particular interchangeability and transmission of the data between the digital broadcast receiver 50 and the program display and selection apparatus 10, wherein the latter includes a liquid crystal display screen 12, permitting a program table 78 to be displayed pertaining to the respective program information, is not at all disclosed in the prior art, irrespective as to whether the latter is considered singly or in combination.

In particular, the present claims, as amended, clearly and unambiguously point out this particular operative relationship and functioning between the program display and selection apparatus 10 and the digital broadcast receiver 50, which is utilized in a manner not at all disclosed nor suggested in the technology.

With regard to the previously cited reference to Darbee, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,130,726, applicants note that although this provides for a program guide on a remote control display, there is no correlation of the transmission of the information between a broadcast receiver and the program display and selection apparatus, as set forth and claimed herein.

In particular, the apparatus 10 facilitates the selection of the displayed electronic program guide data to be employed for retransmitting that particular data to the digital broadcast receiver and from there by means of the TV output cable 74 to the TV monitor 70.

Although Darbee, et al. appears to, on the face thereof, disclose a remote hand controlled unit, which includes a display panel, there is no operative interrelationship with a receiver or control box for the receipt/transmission of EPG data analogous to that set forth by the present invention and as also described and detailed in the claims.

Accordingly, Darbee, et al. would not anticipate nor render obvious the currently presented and amended claims.

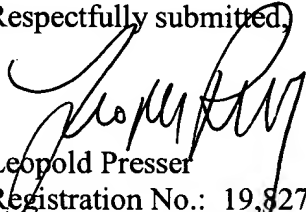
With regard to the combination of Darbee, et al. and newly cited Donnelly, applicants note that the latter Donnelly, U.S. Patent No. 6,460,181, provides for a display on a television screen, rather than on a remote and data transmitting and displaying unit which is operatively interconnected with a digital broadcast receiver, as set forth and claimed herein. Consequently, the combination of Donnelly and Darbee, et al. would be inconsistent with

regard to providing the type of and functioning of the apparatus analogous to that set forth and claimed in the present application.

With regard to Huang, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,437,836 B1, which was discussed in response to the previous Office Action, this merely provides for a palm unit for transmitting data and receiving data on an internal screen, and has nothing in common with the present inventive concept, even if combined with the other references of record.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing comments and amendments, which are deemed to be fully responsive to the Examiner's rejection of the claims and which claims provide subject matter deemed to be patentable over the art, as set forth in the claims, the early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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